

Dive Deeper: A Classroom Guide for The Sand Beneath the Waves PreK-4

Overview

The Sand Beneath the Waves follows the journey of sand as it moves through an ever-changing coastal world. Blending lyrical language, real science, and a spark of imagination, this engaging read-aloud invites young readers to explore natural forces, observe ocean life, and discover how even the tiniest things move in surprising ways. Perfect for lessons on earth science and ecosystems, it sparks wonder while encouraging curiosity and connection with the natural world.

Learning Objectives

This guide will help students:

- Explore how sand forms and where it might have been.
- Connect creative storytelling with real-life ocean science.
- Use imagination to visualize undersea adventures.
- Build vocabulary related to the ocean and marine life.

Discussion Questions

- What are some surprising places the sand might have been?
- Which ocean creature from the book was your favorite? Why?
- Can you think of something else sand could have come from?

Vocabulary Activity

Introduce words like: sand, coral, clam, octopus, burrow, waves, swirling, parrotfish.

Have students draw a picture or write a sentence using 3 of the words.

Science Connection

Revisit the nonfiction facts at the end of the book. Discuss how sea creatures like parrotfish or clams help shape the ocean environment. You can also show real images or videos of these creatures to spark further curiosity.

Art & Writing Extensions

- Draw a comic strip of the sand's adventure through the ocean.
- Write a short story or poem imagining a day in the life of a grain of sand.
- Design your own sea creature and explain how it helps (or changes) the sand.
- Create a collage using magazine clippings or drawings to represent the ocean's layers.

Wrap-Up Idea

Ask students to share one thing they learned and one thing they imagine about the sand beneath their toes. End with a reminder: the ocean is full of wonder—and it's up to us to help keep it clean and safe.